The Franklin Repository.

BY M'CLURE & STONER. CHAMBERSBURG, PA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1863. VOL. 70....WHOLE NO. 3,637.

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LOCAL ITEMS.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.—Never perhaps has Christmas been more generally observed and enjoyed, than on the recurrence of the holiday on Friday last. Happy re-unions, grand banquets, appropriate speeches, patriotic toasts, and elegant music were some of the features of the day. It is well understood that Christmas comes but once a year; and on this occasion folks seemed determined to make more than the most of it. The weather was delightful. Everybody seemed pleased with himself and with all whom he met, and so far as we know, nothing occurred to mar the general joyous spirit which prevailed.

"THE HOPE" SUPPER.

The Hope Fire Company had a splendid entertainment at their Hall on Christmas Eve. Beautiful and appropriate decorations graced the room, and gave it a charming appearance. The supper was ready at 6 o'clock, and was partaken of by about 160 persons, comprising the members of the company and citizens. The tables were furnished in the most sumptuous style, and for the excellent manner in which the whole entertainment was gotten up and passed off, much credit belongs to Messrs. J. Frank. Snider, Alex. Flack, George Brinkman and other prominent active members of the company. A large amount of provisions remained after the supper, which, we learn, were distributed to families of deceased members.

DINNER AT THE TOWN HALL HOSPITAL.

The soldiers at this Hospital were supplied with an elegant dinner by the liberal hand of Mrs. Major General Couch. Good things abounded, and all engaged in their demolition seemed to enjoy the work hugely. Mrs. Pennypacker, the lady matron, contributed no little to the pleasures of the occasion by her assiduous attentions to the wants of all present. The dinner took place at 1 o'clock P. M.

GRAND BANQUET TO THE INVALID COMPANY.

This was one of the most interesting events of the day. Capt. Schelling's Company D, 16th Regt. of the Invalid Corps has been stationed in this place for some months, and by their general good conduct had won the respect and esteem of our citizens. The dinner prepared for them on Christmas day was intended as a compliment from the ladies, and was highly appreciated. It took place in the Court Hall at 2 o'clock P. M. The Hall was so magnificently decorated as to elicit special admiration. The main arch, of evergreen flowers and flags, was surmounted by a stuffed natural eagle bearing in his beak the mottoes, "A Merry Christmas to all," "Welcome Company D, 16th Regt. Invalid Corps." Portraits of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln, Clay, Scott and M'Clellan were suspended over the Judge's Bench. To the portrait of Clay, which is the property of Mr. A. J. Miller, was attached an autograph letter addressed to that gentleman in 1846 by the illustrious statesman. Stands of colors were also arranged about the room. But the most attractive ornaments were the emblems of the various Corps badges of the *original* Army of the Potomac at the time of their adoption. It was a happy idea and most handsomely executed. We give the Corps, Commanders of same, and Emblems.

1st Corps,	Maj.	Gen.		Reynolds, Sphere.
2d "	"	"	"	Couch, Tre-foil.
3d "	"	"	"	Sickles, Diamond.
5th "	"	"	"	Meade, Maltese Cross,
6th "	"	"	"	Sedgwick, Latin Cross.
9th "	"	"	"	Burnside, Anchor.
11th "	"	"	"	Seigel, Crescent.
12th "	"	"	"	Slocum, Star.

On the 1st Corps Badge, which was in mourning, were the words—"To the brave Reynolds." A Pennsylvanian, one of the bravest of soldiers, and one of the first who shed his blood in the memorable fight at Gettysburg, the marks of the Badge for the dead hero were peculiarly appropriate. At half-past one the Company, Capt. Schelling in command, had a street parade, and marched to the Hall at the time appointed for the dinner. Our Band furnished the music for the entire occasion, and performed in the most exquisite style some of their choicest airs. The dinner was of the most sumptuous character and placed upon the table with elegant taste. In addition to the Company, we noticed at the table that jovial and excellent old gentleman, Capt. Rutherford, Assistant Quarter Master at this place; Capt. Johnston, Judge Advocate of the recent Court Martial here; Lieut. Ferry, and other prominent military men. A number of our best citizens were also present. A presentation speech on behalf of the ladies having been made, and fitly responded to by Capt. Schelling, the entire party seated themselves and proceeded to enjoy the good things spread before them. At the conclusion of the dinner a number of toasts were offered, specially complimentary to the ladies of the town and citizens, by the Invalid Company, for the kindness they had received during their sojourn in this place. Volunteer toasts were also read embodying patriotic sentiment and admiration for the services of those who have been conspicuous actors in the Union cause during the War; and hearty and enthusiastic cheers were given for the President, Gen. Meade and the Army of the Potomac, Gen. Grant and the Division of the Mississippi, Gen. Gilmore, Gen. M'Clellan, Gen. Rosecrans, Gen. Hooker, Gen. Burnside and other eminent military men. Happy and appropriate speeches were made by Capts. Schelling, Rutherford and Johnston, and Messrs. Wm. Kennedy, of the *Spirit and Times*, Wm. I. Cook and others. We regret that our space will not permit us to give a detailed account of the proceedings. It was a glorious time and bespoke the sincere appreciation our people entertain for soldiers who, although maimed and wounded on the battle-field, still endeavor to be useful in the cause of their country. The entire company dispersed in the most excellent humor, Capt. Schelling and his command, accompanied by the Band, making another street parade and then proceeding to their quarters. It is but just to say that in the preparation of the banquet, much praise is due Mrs. W. I. Cook, Miss Sade Fletcher and Miss Mary Fisher, Committee, and other ladies, who are always among the foremost in any good work looking to the comfort or enjoyment of our gallant soldiers.

THE BANQUET TO BATT'Y "E" 5TH U. S. A.

A splended entertainment took place at the quarters of Battery "E" 5th U. S. Artillery soon after noon. The dinner was spread in the large warehouse corner of King street and the Franklin Railroad. In this very agreeable and creditable affair of course the ladies were prominent actors. Friends and neighbors of the Battery vied with each other in furnishing the table with the choicest delicacies. The room was very handsomly decorated with flags, arches, garlands and wreaths. Song and sentiment, good cheer and joyous feeling prevailed. It was an occasion which all will remember with the most pleasurable feelings. Lieutenants Piper and Simons dined with their commands and endeavored to give them a full measure of enjoyment.

FRIENDLY REUNIONS.

Our reporter does not claim to be an ubiquitous individual and consequently could not be present at all of the numerous gatherings of friends around the festive board, which took place during the day. A number came to his notice however, of the most elegant description, which while, affording the amplest opportunity for the full gratification of the inner man, gave expression to the true and sincere feelings of friendship. "A happy Christmas" and a generous "Welcome" were the prevailing utterances of the day, and we have no doubt many hearts were mended, many friendships renewed, and many comforts distributed. And so in this respect, if in no other, why should we not all hail the return of the joyous holiday.

SANTA CLAUS ABOUT.

The streets all day were alive with the juveniles. Santa Claus had been about the night before with his pack full of toys, and of course all good children came in for a share of his beautiful gifts. On every sidewalk were to be met innocent childhood visiting Aunty, Uncle or Cousin, to exhibit the nice things which the good old Saint had brought them.

AMUSEMENTS.

A number of the ponds in the neighborhood of town were ice-bound, and the boys with their skates had a good, jovial time.

In the evening the Invalid Co'y had a merry time in the Court Hall. They tripped on the light fantastic toe to the music of our Band, and feasted on a fair portion of their Christmas dinner yet remaining. It was a delightful affair and passed off satisfactorily to all present.

Battery E also had their evening's enjoyment. They had a "hop" at their quarters, and all were pleased and delighted.

A number of private parties also took place, at which the best feeling prevailed.

THE DAY AND ITS LESSONS.

While thus recording the pleasures and enjoyments of the last Christmas day, it were well to remind our readers that it has its lessons worthy of serious attention. We have among us the poor, which the teachings of Him who brought "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men," on Christmas day, tell us we shall have always with us, and who in His own glorious example calls upon us for their protection. Let our Christmas feelings not cease towards them, with the close of our festive season. And then let us not forget the gallant soldiers in the field, fighting to sustain the best of governments. While happiness and festivity reign in our homes—while we enjoy the genial warmth of our fire-sides and greet the presence of fond friends, the soldier is enduring the privations of the camp, eating his scanty meal and preparing for the toils and dangers of the battle field. Forget him not, reader.

But we must close. Ere another year may a glorious peace be secured to our country, and our progress be onward, realizing our most patriotic desires—may many homes be made scenes of happiness and joy—may the poor endure less suffering, and may the world for all the future know us and feel us as the truest and most glorious of Republics. Reader, in the language of Dickens' Tiny Tim, "May God bless every one of us."

GOSSIP WITH OUR FRIENDS.—We had a concert last week, given by the young ladies of Mr. Reeves Seminary, assisted by some others of the town. The object (for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers) was good and the performance gave universal satisfaction.

How did *you* spend Christmas? Did you make many presents? Did you *receive* many presents? How did the poor fare with you, or can it be said of you; "The poor ye have *not* always with you." Did you eat much. Was it you that made that unearthly noise in our streets on Thursday and Friday nights of last week? Were you drunk, and did you call it fun, and were you deadly sick the next day, and did you call *that* fun? Well we had our fun with the little folks, whose sparkling eyes and happy faces more than repaid us for the simple presents that made them rich. O Christmas, Christmas, happy time, dear to the memory of childhood, the time in which we can live over again our early recollections in the persons of our children, the day on which all care and pain should be forgotten, the day commemorative of the advent of "good will" into the world. Blessings on Christmas!

Mems.—The Hope Fire Company had a grand supper on Christmas eve. The next day the Invalids had a dinner, so had the U. S. Battery, so also the sick and wounded in the Hospital. The same night the colored children belonging to the Presbyterian Mission School were treated to candies etc.—There was a good time generally over the whole town.

Not the least pleasant feature of Christmas was the arrival of some of our friends belonging to the army, who had been favored with furloughs for the occasion. Among them we were much gratified to see our old and valued friend, Dr. Samuel G. Lane, Surgeon of the 5th Penna. Reserves, looking as well as we ever saw him. We wish him continued health and a long life of usefulness in his profession.

Talking of Christmas reminds us of an event in our lives this time nearly thirty years ago—our debut in attendance upon a Theatrical performance gotten up in this town by Mr. Thomas J. Harris. The play was 'The Grecian Daughter." No doubt more than one of the performers are now alive and could laugh heartily at the story. Every tragedy has a crisis, and the climax of this play was that just as the ferocious tyrant Dionysius of Syracuse (dressed in the full uniform of a Captain of the Chambersb'g Troop) was about to kill the Grecian Daugu-ter, having previously ordered off her grey haired parient to instant ex-e-cu-ti-on, a horn is to sound, which is the signal for a chosen body of Grecian troops (clad in the cast off habiliments of the Chambersburg Infantry) to rush in most opportunely and rescue Father and Daughter. Now it so happened that a pestilent scoundrel named Ed. S. had taken unto himself a horn like unto that for the grand signal, had learned the call, and after careful study of the play had chosen the worst possible time wherein to bring on the troops. Behind the scene the impatient light infantry supes lay in wait for the signal, having, been initiated by their preceptor with perfect oblivion and regardlessness of all else; and lo! the signal from without sounded, blown by Ed., and in rushed the soldiery pell mell over the vainly resistant Harris, carrying with them a side curtain and any amount of stage furniture in their stampede. The play was ruined, and amid the confusion was heard the cry of the enraged manager, "By the Lord! that was S——." Poor H. is dead. Peace be with him, but the miserable scamp Ed. S. is alive, to laugh over this story, should he ever see it.

SEPTENNIAL ASSESSMENT.—The septennial assessment of taxables has been made as the basis of the next apportionment of Senators and Assemblymen among the counties for the next legislature. It embraces only the taxables, and makes no other classification than Deaf and Dumb and Blind. This we apprehend has been imperfectly done, as Antrim, Guilford, Green, Hamilton, Lurgan, Mercersburg, Metal, Quincy and Warren are reported as having no blind, while Montgomery is given six and St. Thomas five. We subjoin a table exhibiting the taxables of the sevetal districts in 1856 and in 1863, and the Deaf and Dumb and Blind as reported by the assessment of this year:

	1856.	1863.	Dumb.	Blind
Antrim	656	800	1	—
Chambersburg	743	1,108	—	4
Fannett	338	450	1	2
Guilford	650	675	—	—
Green	749	780	—	—
Greencastle	216	300	2	3
Hamilton	381	380	—	—
Letterkenny	442	470	—	2
Lurgan	262	270	—	—
Montgomery	596	625	—	6
Mercersburg	194	200	—	—
Metal	273	286	—	—
Quincy	597	605	—	—
Peters	479	500	—	1
St. Thomas	392	390	—	5
Southampton	388	400	2	1
Warren	171	173	2	—
Washington	546	610	2	1
Waynesboro	282	295	—	1
Total	8,405	9,324	10	26

Hamilton and St. Thomas are reported with less taxables than seven years ago; Warren gains but two, and Waynesboro, Southampton, Metal and Mercersburg are represented with an increase that is scarcely perceptible. Chambersburg has made rapid strides apparently; but the boundaries of the borough have been extended, and part of her apparent growth is at the expense of Guilford and Hamilton—principally the former. Altogether the increase in taxables is 919. Considering the rapid growth of the North-west, our increase will not be equal to the general growth of the State, and Franklin will not have more than a fraction of one-half in excess of the ratio required for one member of the legislature.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS DAY.—The services in the Catholic Church of this place on Christmas morning, were solemn and impressive. The music was very creditable to the choir, and the decorations of the church were in most excellent taste. In addition to the congregation many persons of the different denominations of the town were in attendance.

A BRILLIANT RAID—CAPTURE OF CAPT. HUGH LOGAN.—Col. Boyd started on a raid up the Shanandoah Valley, on the 9th inst., to co-operate with the movement of General Averill. He had with him the 21st Pa. Cav., his own regiment; Cole's Maryland Battalion, and the 1st New York Cavalry, with the 34th Michigan and 12th Virginia Infantry, and six pieces of Artillery—in all about 1100 men. He started from Charlestown and went by Berryville, Winchester, Woodstock, Mt. Jackson, and Harrisonburg, and his advance penetrated to Mt. Crawford, within sixteen miles of Staunton—farther into Virginia than the Union troops have ever gone before on that line. He was absent fifteen days, captured about 100 prisoners, and had but one man wounded—S. J. Banker, of this place, a member of Capt. Hullinger's company. Capt. Hullinger's company had the advance, and his own and two other horses of his command were wounded by bush-whackers. At Woodstock Captain Hugh Logan, formerly of this county, was captured, after he had been wounded seriously in the right arm and slightly in the thigh. He was sent to Wheeling. The command returned to Charlestown on the 24th inst., to enjoy their merry Christmas.

DEPARTURE OF THE INVALID COMPANY.—Capt. Schelling's Company D, 16th Regt. Invalid Corps, left this place in compliance with orders, in the noon train on Saturday, destined for Elmira, New York. While here, the Company made a favorable impression by their soldierly bearing and general good behavior. Their Commander, Captain Schelling, is a most excellent gentleman and bears upon his person a number of wounds, attesting his gallantry and bravery on the battle-field. The Company was escorted to the cars by the Band and a large number of citizens. We understand the whole Regiment will concentrate at Elmira. It is under the command of Colonel Prevost of the original 118th Pa. Vols., who was severely wounded in the disastrous reconnoissance across the Potomac on the day following the battle of Antietam.

TOWN MEETING TO PROCURE VOLUNTEERS.—The citizens of Chambersburg held a town meeting on Monday evening last, to make provision for the payment of bounties to volunteers. C. W. Eyster, Esq., presided with Messrs. Lesher and Creighbaum as Vice Presidents and Geo. O. Selhamer and W. S. Everett Esqs., as Secretaries. After considerable discussion, the following resolution offered by Mr. Sharpe, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Burgess and Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg, be hereby authorized to levy a *pro rata* tax upon the property of the citizens of the Borough immediately; to raise a fund to pay bounties to volunteers, not exceeding in amount the sum of $200,00. And we hereby pledge ourselves to have said tax legalized by the approaching legislature if necessary.

Mr. Stumbaugh offered an additional resolution requesting the Council to make an immediate loan, to pay the bounties, which was adopted. The meeting then adjourned.

SUPPLIES FOR PRISONERS.—Although no supplies will be received by the rebels for prisoners from the government or from associations, they do not reject contributions from private individuals. This is an absurd distinction, but the rebels choose to make it and we cannot just now unmake it. The following letter from Gen. Meredith to Mr. M'Dowell of this place, is official on the subject:

OFFICE COMMISSIONER FOR EXCHANGE,
FORT MONROE, VA., Dec. 20th, 1863.

W. H. M'DOWELL, Chambersburg, Pa.—SIR: Yours of the 18th inst. is received. Supplies of any kind forwarded by private individuals will be received by the Rebel Authorities for our prisoners in Richmond. I have a receipt dated Dec. 7th, from the Rebel Agt. at City Point for 1 box for Thomas H. M'Dowell, which I have no doubt has been faithfully delivered to him.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
S. A. MEREDITH,
Brig. Gen. and Commissioner for Exchange.

COUNTY DIRECTORY.—The following is a complete list of the several county officers in Franklin county for the year 1864:

President Judge—James Nill, Chambersburg.
Associate Judges—James O. Carson, Mercersburg; W. W. Paxton, Chambersburg.
District Attorney—Wm. S. Stenger, Chambg.
Prothonotory—K. Shannon Taylor, Chambg.
Clerk to Prothonotory—John F. Glosser.
Register and Recorder—Henry Strickler, Antrim.
Clerk—Wm. G. Mitchell, Southampton.
Treasurer—James G. Elder, St. Thomas.
Commissioners—John Nitterhouse, Chambersb'g; John Downey, Green; Henry Good, Quincy.
Clerk—George Foreman, Quincy.
Auditors—George Jarrett, Chambersburg; D. K. Wunderlich, Chambersburg; Wm. S. Amberson, Washington.
Directors of the Poor—J. L. Latshaw, Guilford; W. S. Harris, Metal; John Doebler, Chambersburg.
Clerk—W. S. Everett.
Court Crier—Frederick Glosser.

SUGAR CANE MOLASSES.—Mr. Jacob Stouffer, of Guilford township, made an experiment in the culture of Sugar Cane and manufacture of Molasses last season, and was eminently successful. On about two-thirds of an acre he raised cane that produced 124 gallons of good thick syrup. The manufacture of the Molasses by the machinery used by Mr. Stouffer, is a simple process, and the cane can be successfully raised with little more than ordinary care. The plant is more tender than the corn stock, and it should be planted as soon as the ground is prepared so that weeds cannot get the start of it.

WE call attention to the Sale of the Mill property of Hon. J. J. Kennedy, dec'd, on *Saturday next*. This Mill is in good repair and is doing a thriving town and country trade. See advertisement in an other column.

SENT TO THEIR REGIMENTS.—A number of the soldiers in the Town Hall Hospital having regained their health, were returned to the Regiments to which they are attached on Tuesday last.

SALES OF PROPERTY.—Messrs Christian and C. W. Eyster, Administrators of the Estate of Hon. Jacob Eyster deceased, sold the following properties, belonging to the estate, on Monday last:—The property on Main street, now occupied by Hon. Jas. L. Black, was sold to Hon. J. L. Black, for $6,100; the dwelling house on main street, lately occupied by Hon. Jacob Eyster, was sold to Christian Stouffer, for $4,325; the property occupied by Capt. Jno S. Eyster, was sold to P. A. Fry, for $1,640.

MUSICAL.—The members of the Chambersburg Female Seminary, assisted by Prof. M'Clure and Dr. M'Lenegan, gave a vocal concert in the Court House on Monday evening of last week, for the benefit of the soldiers. The programme was executed with admirable taste and skill and to a large and appreciative audience

RECRUITING.—Capt. R. A. Ward, Co. D. 11th Pa. Cav., has been detailed to this place to recruit for that regiment. Our patriotic citizens wanting to accept the liberal local and government bounties offered, can be accommodated at home in any branch of the service.

MR. EDMUND H. LITTLE, of Hamilton township, Franklin county, was killed in a skirmish with the rebels, near New Hope Church, Va., on the 27th of November last. He was a member of Co. D. 6th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, and a gallant and faithful soldier.

THE citizens of Waynesboro' held a meeting on Saturday evening last, to take measures to fill the quota of the borough of volunteers. Greencastle has done likewise, and is now nearly if not quite up to her quota. Why don't Chambersburg move in the matter?

WE invite attention to the Auditors notice of Isaac H. M'Cauley, Esq., in our advertising columns, giving notice to the creditors of Henry G. Funk to present their claims on the day fixed for the hearing and distribution.

APPOINTMENT.—The Post Master General has appointed James G. Lyon, Esq., Post Master at Wells Tannery, Fulton county, in place of George Whitehill, resigned.

FRESH Ground Pepper, Sweet Marjory and spices of all kinds, *warranted pure*, at Miller & Henshey's. Also a preparation for curing Beef and Pork which everybody should have. It imparts a fine flavor to the meat and prevents worms from getting in it.

LOOK TO YOUR INTEREST.—At Gelwicks' wholesale and retail store you can obtain the highest price for dried fruit and all kinds of country produce, and also see the largest and finest stock of goods at low rates.

COUNTRY PEOPLE, when you visit Chambersburg, call at Gelwicks' wholesale and retail store examaine the large stock and get a bargain.

IF you want pure Black Pepper, Corriander and Sweet Margoram, you can be supplied at Heyser & Cressler's.

GELWICK'S expects to make his business pay by selling the largest quantity and not by large profits.

REMEMBER the place to get pure medicine, the best Soap and Perfumery is at Heyser & Cressler's.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

COMMON PLEAS—WRITS ISSUED.

The following writs were issued in the Court of Common Pleas last week:

Mary Jane Beaver, Adm'rx and Peter Kunkelman Administrator of John Beaver, deceased, vs. John Palsgrove. Alias fi. fa. to judgment 7, Oct. term, 1862. Kennedy and Nill for Plff.

Charles P. Suesserott, vs. John Koon. Sci. fa. to serve judgmont 195, August term, 1855.

ORPHANS' COURT—LETTERS GRANTED.

The following letters of administration and letters testamentary were issued during last week:

Estate of Nicholas Fleck, of Guilford township; letters of Administration to Samuel Fleck.

ACCOUNTS FILED.

The following accounts were filed during last week.

Second Acct. of Jacob Garver, Guardian of Martha Waddle.

Account of Jacob Garver, Guardian of Julia A. Waddle.

Account of William Heyser, Guardian of Lucy C. Nitterhouse.

First and final account of John Stouffer, Adm'r of Jacob C Henry.

First and final acct. of Andrew L. Coyle, Adm'r, with will annexed, of Solomon Weiser.

Final account of Elias S. Troxel, acting Executor of Tobias Funk.

The final returns of the late Illinois election have just been published. The total Union vote this year is 126,505; total copperhead vote this year, 96,409; Union majority, 30,096 Copperhead majority last year, 16,666; Union gain on majorities, 46,762.

A Mrs. Annie Johnston is being tried as a spy in Nashville. She was detected in smuggling saddles and harness into the rebel lines. Gurley, the guerrilla, is also on trial.

Clinton Lloyd, of Williamsport, Pa., a War Democrat, has been appointed chief clerk to the clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington.

Lewis Jamison, of Williamsport, Pa., lumber contractor, has been sent to the Old Capitol, for frauds.

Gen. Burnside has not resigned his commission. He tendered his resignation, and it was not excented.

BRIEF WAR ITEMS.

The 9th, 29th and 35th Indiana regiments have re-enlisted for three years, to a man. They will have a short furlough home in a few days.

In the Rebel Congress the substitute bill has been abrogated, and all persons who have put substitutes in the army are now compelled to go themselves.

Lewisburg, Western Virginia, was taken on the 12th inst. by our troops under Gen. Scammon, who still holds the place. The rebel General Echols retired without firing a shot.

Senator Wilson has introduced a bill to pay the nine months' men the bounty of twenty-five dollars which has been withheld by the Department. There is but little doubt of its passage.

Affairs are very dull in Richmond. Flour has gone up to $200 a barrel, and is still rising. The people are generally despondent, and the approaching winter will be awful for the poor.

Among the letters recently captured near Chattanooga, is one from a private, dated Wasaca, Ga., Nov. 29, in which he says: "The fight was so badly conducted that our men are very much disheartened, and there is much complaint. It is enough to make the Devil mad to think how our army acted in the fight. The right wing of the army, under Breckinridge, acted well, but the centre, under Hardee, was badly managed."

The *Democrat's* Fort Smith dispatch of the 13th says: The rebel force which crossed the Arkansas, going northward, was under Standwait, Adair and Quantrell. Captain Spilman, with a portion of the Indian troops, encountered them at Barren Fork, in the Cherokee country, and fought for four hours, routing them. The rebel loss was about 70. They fled in all directions, but the remnants will doubtless reorganize. It is suspected that their design is to concentrate on the Kansas border.

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Gen. Kimball, recently in command of the United States forces at Little Rock, Arkansas, represents that immense Union meetings are being held in all portions of the State, at which resolutions are adopted endorsing without reserve all the acts of the Administration, for the suppression of the rebellion and recommending that a State Convention be called for re-organizing the State Government without the institution of slavery.

The following members compose the National Democratic Committee, appointed by the Democratic Congressional caucus to recommend to the National Committee the time and place of holding the next nominating convention:—J. C. Allen, of Illinois; Fernando Wood, of New York; G. B. Steele, of New Jersey: W. H. Miller, of Pennsylvania; D. Marcy, of New Hampshire; Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana. They also appointed the following committee to arrange plans for united action in the House during the present session:—Dawson of Pennsylvania; Pendleton, of Ohio; Mallory, of Kentucky; Brooks, of New York, and Robinson, of Illinois. The caucus resolved to keep their action, for the present, secret.

Steps are likely very soon to be taken in Tennessee to reorganize the local authorities of the State, and put the machinery again in motion. Hon. Horace Maynard, Attorney General of the State, has written a letter on the subject, which advises an election for county and town officers on the first Saturday of March next. The old Constitution, and the laws as they stood in May, 1861, will be the guide; all subsequent acts, being the work of rebels, are regarded and will be treated as null and void. The old Constitution required that every voter should be a "citizen of the United States;" of course he must be one who recognizes his allegiance to the United States, and will take an oath to support the Constitution, and obey the laws of Congress. The State Constitution already requires that every person elected to office shall take that oath before entering upon its duties. This will be an important step toward the reestablishment of civil authority in Tennessee, and is properly guarded, cannot be attended by any but good results.

The loyal Legislature of the State of Virginia have passed an act providing for the election of delegates by the people, to convene at Alexandria on the 18th of February next, to alter and amend the Constitution of that State. After a preamble stating the necessity of changing the Constitution so as to conform it to the provisions of the President's Proclamation, abolishing Slavery in those districts which are not embraced within the Proclamation, and to the new boundaries of the State, the act orders an election to be held on the 21st of January throughout the Commonwealth, at which election any voter who has not adhered to the rebels since the 1st of September, 1861 may be chosen to the Convention, and all loyal citizens who have not assisted the rebels since the 1st of January, 1863, shall be entitled to vote. The Executive to appoint County Commissioners to superintend the election, whose duty it shall be to count the votes and give certificates. Any one whose vote may be challenged is required to take an oath to support the Constitution, and to declare that he has not voluntarily borne arms against the United States, or in any way given aid or comfort to the Rebellion.